

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 30, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 16 and 19.

Claims 4, 13, and 16-19 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 1-3, 6-12, and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 21-29 have been added. No new matter has been added. Therefore, claims 4-5, 13-19, and 21-29 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 16 and 19 do not affect the patentability of the claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16 and 19 are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 6-8, 12, 17, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moineau et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0215957) (Moineau), in view of Applicants' allegedly admitted prior art ("AAPA"). The Office Action also objected to claims 4-5, 9-11, and 13-15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 4 and 13 have been amended to put said claims into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4 and 13 recite allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that claims 4 and 13 be allowed.

Claims 17-18 have been amended to recite subject matter which the Office Action has indicated as allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17-18 recite allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn, and that claims 17-18 be allowed.

New claim 21 has been added, and claim 21 recites subject matter which the Office Action has indicated as allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 recites allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that claim 21 be allowed.

Claims 2-3, 6-7, and 9-12 have been cancelled, and said cancellation effectively moots any rejection with respect to those claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that any rejection with respect to claims 2-3, 6-7, and 9-12 be withdrawn.

New claims 22-29 have been added. Claims 14-15 and 26-29 depend upon claim 13 and claims 22-25 depend upon claim 13. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 14-15, 22-25, and 26-29 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon claims 4 and 13, respectively, and for the specific elements recited therein.


For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-5, 13-19, and 21-29 recite allowable subject matter. It is therefore respectfully

requested that all of claims 4-5, 13-19, and 21-29 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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